



WS 21-02 Change 2
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Financial Aid
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To: Career Office Contractors
Financial Aid Support Center
Financial Aid Payment Office

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SUBJECT: Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) - Procedures for Adversely Affected Workers
Change 2

Purpose

To update procedures for helping customers eligible for financial aid using Trade Act resources - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA).

This issuance updates WS 21-02 Trade Adjustment Assistance - Procedures for Adversely Affected Workers Change 1 issued May 4, 2022.

Background

The federal Trade Act provides money to help workers who have lost their jobs due to adverse effects of foreign trade. The U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for determining if a company's workers are eligible for assistance and for providing funds to the states and workforce boards. In Texas, the state and Workforce Solutions are responsible for delivering service to eligible workers.

Trade Act financial aid comes in two forms: Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), and Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA). TAA consists primarily of financial aid grants for education expenses (tuition/fees, books), out-of-area job search travel, and relocation expenses. TRA is a stipend, paid to an individual customer through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, after regular UI compensation has been exhausted.

The Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) established the TAA program and was amended in 2002, 2009, 2011, and 2015. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (TAARA

2015) was signed into law on June 29, 2015. The law continued the Trade Adjustment Assistance program for six years and changed group eligibility requirements and individual benefits and services available under the TAA program, retroactive to January 1, 2014. All certified petitions numbered 85,000 – 97,999 fall under the provisions of TAARA 2015.

On July 1, 2021, TAA reverted to a modified version of TAARA 2015. This version, referred to as Reversion 2021, offered benefits and services similar to those of the 2002 program, with some exceptions. All petitions certified after July 1, 2021 are numbered 98,000 and above.

TAARA 2015 contained a sunset provision effective July 1, 2022. Congress has not passed additional legislation, therefore all versions of TAA terminated on June 30, 2022. Customers who were certified prior to July 1, 2022 can continue to be served under the TAA program.

Action

Make sure all staff are aware of the following when providing service to adversely affected workers under the TAA program.

1. Trade Adjustment Assistance

Workforce Solutions staff must continue to follow the procedures to provide TAA-funded service to customers eligible under petitions certified prior to July 1, 2022.

Workforce Solutions staff must continue to co-enroll all adversely affected workers under certified petitions in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Worker program.

2. Petitions

Workforce Solutions staff must be aware that any pending petitions and any petitions submitted after June 30, 2022, will not be investigated or certified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Workforce Solutions staff should not file a new petition on behalf of an adversely affected worker. Staff must inform customers the program has been discontinued and must provide service under WIOA Dislocated Worker.

3. Trade Readjustment Allowance

Workforce Solutions staff must be aware that Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) are limited to workers who received their first payment prior to June 30, 2022.

Workforce Solutions staff must be aware that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) TRA unit will not approve new applications for RTAA or ATAA after June 30, 2022.

Workforce Solutions staff must continue to submit TRA applications for adversely affected workers under a certified petition. **The TAA program conclusion will not affect their TRA payments.**

4. Posters

Workforce Solutions career offices should remove TAA posters from the Resource Area .

5. Rapid Response

Workforce Solutions staff must continue to provide rapid response services to dislocated workers and refer them to the WIOA Dislocated Worker program.

Questions

Staff should ask questions of their supervisors and managers first. Direct questions for Board staff through the electronic Q&A available for new issuances on <http://wrksolutions.com>.